

# Evergreen FS, Inc.

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FEBRUARY 18, 2000

SECRETARY  
U.S. SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD  
1925 K STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20423-0001



RE: FINANCE DOCKET NO. 33842

DEAR SIR:

EVERGREEN FS, INC. USES RAIL TRANSPORTATION. OUR ANNUAL VOLUME IS ABOUT 3,000 CARS PER YEAR. OUR COMPANY USES THE UP & N/S RAILROADS FOR MOST OF ITS TRANSPORTATION NEEDS.

I SUPPORT THE STB'S DECISION IN THE BNSF/CN DOCKET TO EXAMINE CAREFULLY THE BNSF/CN PROPOSED CONTROL APPLICATION, INCLUDING ALL OF THE EFFECTS IT COULD HAVE ON THE RAIL TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY. THE BOARD SHOULD NOT LOOK AT THE BNSF/CN TRANSACTION IN A VACUUM. IT SHOULD CONSIDER THE EFFECTS THAT FURTHER MERGERS AND CONSOLIDATIONS IN THE RAIL INDUSTRY WILL HAVE ON SHIPPERS.

ANY MAJOR RAIL CONSOLIDATION NOW OR IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE WOULD BE EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE. THE RAIL INDUSTRY IS STILL ADJUSTING TO THE EFFECTS OF THE LAST ROUND OF MERGERS WHICH BEGAN WITH THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN'S PURCHASE OF THE SANTA FE. NOT ALL OF THE BENEFITS OF THOSE MERGERS HAVE BEEN REALIZED OR ACCOMPLISHED YET. THE INDUSTRY NEEDS TO STABILIZE AND IMPROVE ITS OVERALL OPERATIONS BEFORE FURTHER CONSOLIDATIONS ARE UNDERTAKEN.

SINCERELY,

FRED GENT  
EVERGREEN FS, INC.  
GRAIN DEPARTMENT MANAGER

FG/DS